

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02
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UNCLAS TORONTO 0541

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: CANADAIN UAW LEADER CALLS FOR TOGETHERNESS TO MAKE COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING WORK; REJECTS EUROPEANLABOR RELATIONS MODELS

REF: TORONTO A-26, FEB 28, 1977

1. DENNIS MCDERMOTT, UAW INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT AND CANADIAN
UAW DIRECTOR SAID THAT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN CANADA WOULD
BE IMPROVED IF PERSONALRELATIONSHIPS WERE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN UNION
LEADERS AND CORPORATE CHIEFS. HE REJECTED THE IDEA OF TRANSPLANTING
EUROPEAN LABOR RELATIONS TECNIGUES TO CANADA, POINTING OUT THE
DIFFERENCES IN HISTORICAL TRADITIONS AND SOCIAL CLIMATE BETWEEN EUROP
EAN
NATIONS AND CANADA SIMPLY MADE CANADAIN ADOPTIONOF GERMAN CO--
DETERMINATON, YUGOSLAV WORKERS COUNCILS, OR SWEDISH CENTRALIZED
BARGAIVING IMPRACTICAL.

2. ADDRESING THE EMPIRE CLUB IN TORONT MARCH 3. MCDERMOTT SAID THAT
SUCCESSFUL LABOR RELATIONS IN CERTAN WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COULD
BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE FACT THAT TRADE UNIONS ARE AN ACCEPTED PART OF
SOCIETY THERE, AS WELL AS BY THE FACT THAT EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS ARE
CENTRALLY ORGANIZED AND DIRIGISTE IN NATURE, WHEREAS CANADIAN UNIONS ARE
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DECENTRALIZED AND "GRASS ROOTS DEMOCRATIC."

3. MCDERMOTT DEPLORED THE FACT THAT HE IS UNQCQUAINTED WITH
CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF CANADAIN BIG FOUR AUTOMAKERS AND THAT HE MEETS
GENERAL MOTORS VICE PRESIDENT FOR PERSONNEL (SEATED AT HEAD TABLE)
ONLY TRIENNIALLY AT THE BARGAINING TABLE. TOP MANAGEMENT, HE

SAID IS SHIELDED FROM THE REALITIES OF LABOR RELATIONS BY MIDDLE MANAGEMENT, AND OUTSIDE "BUSYBODIES", SUCH AS LABOR RELATIONS CONSULTANTS, ARBITRATORS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ETC.

4. WITHOUT NAMING NAMES, HE DESCRIBED HOW A NASTY SITUATION AROSE IN NEGOTIATIONS AT A CANADAIN (BENDIX) PLANT OVER LEGAL INTERPRETATION OF A MINOR POINT IN A CONTRACT. AT A RECENT WHITE HOUSE MEETING DURING TRUDEAU'S VISIT WITH TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL (AGAIN NOT NAMED), HE SAID THAT BLUMENTHAL TOLD HIM THE WHOLE THING COULD HAVE BEEN SETTLE BY THE TWO OF THEM OVER THE TELEPHONE.

5.COMMENT: MCDEMOTT HAS BEEN PUSHING THIS LINE ON SEVRAL OCCASIONS RECENTLY, E.G. AT MY RESIDENCE WITH A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL BANK AND AT A CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS FACING THE PROVINCE ORGANIZED BY THEONTARIO GOVERNMENT (TORONTO A-26). IN EFFECT, HE IS SAYING THAT MANY, IF NOT ALL, LABOR PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED BY THE TOP MEN ON EITHER SIDE MEETING IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF ESTABLISHED PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPECT (WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE THE "GRASS ROOTS"?). IT IS IRONIC THAT MCDERMOTT'S ACKNOWLEDGED PROTEGE, CLIFFORD PILKEY, PRESIDENT OF THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOR, OUSTED INCUMBENT PRESIDENT DAVID ARCHER RECENTLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT ARCHER COZIED UP TO MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT. IT IS EVEN MORE IRONIC THAT PILKEY, NOW FACED BY A STRIKE BY MEMBERS OF HIS OWN OFL STAFF, IS ACCUSED BY HIS OPPONENTS OF STANDING ALOOF: "THE ONLY WAY HE (PILKEY) CAN UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES IS TO SIT DOWN DIRECTLY WITH US, HEAR OUR SIDE OF THE STORY FIRST HAND, AND SEE WHETHER THERE IS COMMON GROUND ON WHICH TO MOVE AHEAD TO A SETTLEMENT," SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STRIKERS ACCORDING TO THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL MARCH 4. THE OFL NEGOTIATORS ARE ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY TREASURER AND ITS ADMINISTRATOR.

6. NEITHER THE GENERAL MOTORS VP NOR THE YUGOSLAV CONSUL GENERAL, ALSO SITTING AT THE HEAD TALE, APPEARED TO BE AMUSED BY MCDERMOTT'S DESCRIPTION OF THEIR LABOR PRACTICES. DIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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